

Introducing...

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM: A Manual for Success in Today's World

Keys to the Kingdom will help you:

1. Deepen your study of God's Word
2. Enhance your spiritual walk
3. Gain valuable insight from the experiences of others
4. Change your life through application of time-tested principles
5. Strengthen your character
6. Make better choices
7. Live a life without limits

Success gurus will tell you that you can do anything you put your mind to; and that's true, if your mind is stayed on Christ. *The premise behind Keys to the Kingdom, A Manual for Success in Today's World is that real success principles have a biblical foundation.* True success apart from God is impossible. Success principles or spiritual laws have been around from the beginning of time; they work! The book draws on experiences of biblical characters as well as the authors' own experiences to emphasize 12 success principles. *Keys to the Kingdom* is designed so you can complete one chapter a week for 12 weeks. Each chapter is conveniently broken into seven subsections allowing you to go through them daily.

Scott and Wilson have experienced and rebounded from various types of adversity; from loss of jobs to broken relationships; from financial troubles to their children's life threatening illnesses. Through it all they've learned to depend on God's Word for guidance and to trust Him to provide and restore. They hope that readers will "interact" with the book; reading each subsection daily -- highlighting, underling and writing in the margins; as well as completing the weekly exercises.

Keys to the Kingdom picks up where Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* leaves off. *It helps to address the challenges of modern living, with its competing priorities, emotional distractions and financial responsibilities. This is an excellent guide for Christians who are searching for a way to be successful while maintaining godly standards.* Once you embrace and apply the simple, basic principles revealed in this book, you will have mastered the secrets of lasting success...God's way.

The authors collaborated on this project with the goal of sharing what God has given them. They truly believe that their adversity strengthened our character and primed them for God's work. This book is their answer to God's call to share their testimony and His Word with the world. *It is laden with scriptural references, so keep your bibles handy for a more profound experience and a deeper study.* In fact, it is the perfect tool for use with small groups or church bible study programs.

Please take a moment to get acquainted with Keys to the Kingdom. They would be delighted to support you or your organization and reinforce their call to share God's Word with the world. For more details about the authors, to book them for an engagement, order the book or find out about other programs and resources, please visit their website www.walkwritesolutions.com.

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Highlights from Keys to the Kingdom

“Your creative imagination gives birth to your vision – your ultimate guide to fulfilling God’s purpose in your life.” – page 26

The key to acquiring the things you desire out of life is first trusting God to lay on your heart His will for your life. He has a plan for you. Often His vision for your life is revealed to you through your imagination. Visualizing what God wants for you will enable you to move in the direction God wants you to go.

Vision is the first key to developing a plan; it gives you hope, something to look forward to, something to give your life true meaning. With God at the helm, you have the power to move beyond your dreams into the capacity God has for you. More treasures than you can imagine are stored up in heaven waiting to be manifested in your life. Putting your trust in God will provide the opportunity for Him to move abundantly. It is His pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Challenges can crop up at any time, and at any place, but don’t lose heart. Usually when things start to go wrong, your breakthrough is just around the corner. Satan wants you to think that things are going to fall apart; even if they do, remember God is on your side. Sometimes things fall apart, but it is all part of God’s plan. He usually works things out in your favor according to His purpose. When you trust Him, “all things work together for good.”

“Only sin separates you from God’s promises.” – page 41

Like Adam and Eve, you can be caught off-guard if you don’t renew your mind. You can do so by replacing negative things like the fruit of the flesh, procrastination, blaming, un-forgiveness, indecision, and negative thinking with positive things like the Fruit of the Spirit, action, accountability, forgiveness, decisiveness and positive thinking. God’s Word tells you that you are excellent, anointed, an heir, royalty and powerful. Once you conquer negative patterns and replace them with positive ones, you’ll have a better feel for who you are. A deeper analysis can be done by lining your life up with the Word of God. Ask God to help you embrace and incorporate positive behaviors into your life.

“Some adversity actually comes to make you stronger.” – page 72

Once you set a goal, don’t keep it on paper. Give your goals life by taking the first step.” – page 90

Anything you focus on will grow.” – page 97

The choices you make in the area of friendship can lead to success or failure.” – page 108

If you can visualize yourself in the place you want to be, then you can get there from where you are now.” – page 127

The key to a healthy, positive attitude is seeing yourself as God sees you. It’s about trusting His Word because He’ll never lie to you. It’s about changing your thought pattern and conditioning your mind to think on what is true, just and honest. It’s about recognizing that God’s Word is a good report. It’s also about sharing God’s Word with others. Maybe you can help someone who might be suffering from low self esteem.

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Does what you think about matter? Yes. If you think good thoughts, you will feel good about yourself. On the other hand, if you think lowly thoughts, you will feel that way. It's important to condition your mind to think on the things that will propel you forward, not those things that will hinder your progress. Trust God in all things. Put your total faith in Him. Remember, it is impossible to please Him without faith. Is there anything that you are trusting God for today? Do you have faith to believe that it will come to pass if it is His will for your life?

The more you give, the more you get. No one can receive anything with a balled-up fist.” – page 156

A good steward manages time, finances and God-given talents well. You can't say you believe in God's Word and then do something contrary to it. When most people think of giving, they think only of money. Some people put too much focus on money and spend a great deal of time trying to acquire it and hold on to it. Money is neither bad nor good. It is simply a tool used in this society to acquire goods and services. Loving money, however, is a problem. If your focus is consistently on material gain, you will find yourself in all types of predicaments. The love of money is actually idol worshipping. Remember, God will have no other gods before Him. You will have to account for how you use what God blessed you with. You will be abundantly rewarded for your obedience, faithfulness and generosity.

It pays to be a good listener because you never know when you might hear something that could save your life.” – page 165

Are you slow to speak and quick to listen? Are you struggling with becoming a good listener? Have you considered what steps you can take to change your listening skills? Are you willing to do them? A good listener is able to hear what others miss. A good listener can hear God when He speaks. But if you're too busy running your mouth, you may miss something important.

When you learn how to control your emotions, desires and will, you live a more balanced life. Things that used to upset you don't anymore. You approach each situation with the attitude of working it out with the help of God.

Learn how to stick to your plans even when things don't seem to be going your way. People may slam doors in your face, but that's because they're not a part of God's plan for your life. He has singled out those who will assist you along the way. You will encounter negative people at times because opposition is everywhere. However, obstacles will actually make you stronger. They allow you to flex your muscles by exercising your faith. Stick to your plan; persevere in the face of difficulty; God is on your side, so you have nothing to fear.

Disease comes when you allow your body to be in a constant state of dis-ease.” – page 188

There are many enemies to your health. These include stress, worry and guilt. Stress causes the body to be uncomfortable or be in a state of dis-ease. The body's natural reaction to stress is a physical one that ultimately causes sickness. Worry attacks your mind and causes a host of anxiety disorders. Guilt eats away at your inner being.

There are antidotes to stress, worry and guilt. To counteract the negative affects of these enemies, try humor, peace, forgiveness and faithful prayer. Humor allows you to slow down and get a good laugh, which causes the body to experience some beneficial physical changes. Laughing actually reduces the level of stress hormones and releases pain killers. Finding a way to get peace in your life will do wonders for your mental state. Demand and take time for yourself.

Forgiveness helps you let go of things that may be eating you alive. Remember, un-forgiveness only hurts you. The other person has already moved on with his life. Prayer changes things. Practicing it can change your medical condition. You must approach God knowing that if it is His will, you will get whatever you most desire. Of course, without faith it is impossible to please God, so you must pray, believing that what you ask will come to pass.

When God tells you to do something, you should just do it – no questions asked – because He has already prepared the way.” – page 208

The key to experiencing great balance in your life is spending time alone with God. He enjoys having you in His presence. He enjoys hearing your praise. Are you too busy to fit God into your schedule? Has your original plan to spend time with Him gone out the window? Although God knows your heart, He also wants some of your time and your obedience. He said obedience is better than sacrifice.

Pay attention to your body, and then do whatever it is telling you to do. Have you ignored signs that could save your life? If so, you have to stop being negligent and start being more attentive to your body's needs. You reside in this body, and you want to be comfortable with it. You should exercise, eat right, and get adequate rest.

In order to be a great leader, you must understand what you are called to do.” – page 231

Jesus laid down His life for your sake. What can you do to honor His love? What sacrifices are you willing to make in order to please God? He's called you to preach the gospel to the poor, to minister to the sick, to love your neighbor as yourself, and to love God most of all. God is calling us to give to our community, to give to our churches, counsel those in need, pray for those who are lost, cry out for those who don't understand, and weep for those who refuse to hear God's call. God is calling us to work in perfect harmony with Him and one another.

Uniting with a team of like-minded individuals will allow you to accomplish much of what you've been assigned to do. Whether you form prayer groups or alliances, you're taking advantage of the same kind of power found in the Trinity. Where two or more people come together in His name, He is present. With God at the table, you are closer to successfully accomplishing your goal.

When we work together we can build, improve or create things that have never been done.” - page 260

Forming alliances, organizations and teams will allow you to accomplish great things in life. Alliances can change the world as they reach out to help other people—extending a helping hand to make someone else's life a little better. Alliances are the conduit for innovative ideas. They give you the courage to turn your ideas into action. Through the dedication of a group or an alliance, you can bring peace and happiness to the world. God has given you everything you will ever need in this life. He has fully equipped you to carry out the mission that was assigned to you.